



Resolution Number Two

Submitted by National Secretary, Paul Howes.

Growing Our Union – A Strategic Approach

Background

Since 1886, the AWU has been at the forefront of organising and representing Australian workers throughout the length and breadth of the country. During this period, our organisation has witnessed many tumultuous events and periods of relative peace and prosperity. The infliction of John Howard and his radical, ideologically driven anti-union agenda is one of the more contemporary, and notable, examples of the challenges our union has faced since our foundation.

Despite the best attempts of our industrial and political foes, the AWU is just as much a voice for working Australians now as it has been in the past. As always, our collective challenge is to represent the interests of our members in securing better terms and conditions of employment, better job security, and a measure of social justice in the workplace.

Whilst it is important to reflect on the many successes that we have achieved as a union over the past 122 years, it is equally important for the union to cast an eye forward with a view to where we wish to be in the years to come. In setting future goals and industrial objectives, we must continually strive to renew and grow the union – not only in our areas of traditional coverage and representation, but in new industries that emerge with the changing nature of the Australian and global economy.

During the course of 2007 and 2008, the AWU leadership team has made a concerted effort to address the issue of renewal and growth within our union. What started as a tremendously successful campaign by the Queensland Branch in the health industry has now been developed into a national growth campaign initiative.

Our national growth strategy has already seen the allocation of resources at a national level to the employment of a National Growth Organiser, and under the plan we will see a similar investment of dedicated resources being made by our Branches with the employment of their own Growth Organisers. Our national charter will include building our density in workplaces where our union already has an established presence, and will facilitate a coordinated approach to industry campaigning throughout the country and between Branches. This initiative, of necessity, will also involve the allocation of resources toward the development and maintenance of an internal growth and organising capacity through our Branch officials and workplace delegates.

The AWU's national growth plan is squarely focused on the securing the future of our current members and potential members and the industries that they work in. As Australia's oldest and largest continuously operating blue collar union, we understand that unity is strength, and that we are stronger together.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009



Resolution

This National Conference recognises the fundamental importance to our union, and to the working men and women that we represent throughout Australia, of continued growth and renewal.

National Conference endorses the dedication of resources to the union growth strategy, and commits the union to the continued application of appropriate resources to further the industrial interests of AWU members in every State and Territory.

Moved:

Seconded:

Outcome: